Equal Access to Healthcare in Socially Diverse Societies
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Equal Access to Healthcare in Socially Diverse Societies

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Preface

This volume is the result of the European Union project »Healthcare as a Public Space: Social Integration and Social Diversity in the Context of Access to Healthcare in Europe«, which has been conducted in years 2019–2022 within the framework of the Joint Research Programme »Public Spaces: Culture and Integration in Europe« funded by the Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA) network and the European Commission.

Healthcare is an excellent example of a public space that models the processes of social integration and social equity. In a general sense, healthcare can connect diverse groups of a society under the common idea of health and illness, but also lead to exclusion and segregation of social minorities. Within the framework of the project, research focused on the European normative frameworks concerning equal access to healthcare and their implementation in national healthcare systems and healthcare practice in four European countries: Croatia, Germany, Poland, and Slovenia.

Four research institutions at four European universities contributed to the realization of the project: the Institute of the History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine at Ulm University (Germany), the Institute of History of Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), the Department of Social Sciences and Medical Humanities at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Rijeka (Croatia), and the Center for Bioethics and Biolaw at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Warsaw (Poland).

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